

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A medical system comprising:
 - an installed medical imaging apparatus comprising a plurality of permanently installed components including a control unit for operating the installed medical imaging apparatus;
 - a remote access interface connected to the control unit configured to allow the control unit to communicate with a remote location for remote servicing of the installed medical imaging apparatus;
 - an external device that is separate from said permanently installed components of said installed medical imaging apparatus and that is usable configured for temporary connection to at least one of said permanently installed components for operation in combination with said installed medical imaging apparatus, said external device comprising an external device interface;
 - said installed medical imaging apparatus having a remote access interface connected to said control unit, and connectible to said external device interface only when said external device is ~~used in combination with~~ connected to at least one of said permanently installed medical ~~imaging apparatus components~~, to allow communication between said control unit and said external device; and
 - said control unit ~~comprising a router~~ being configured to temporarily place said external device in communication with said remote access interface, via said external device interface, to allow remote servicing of

said external device from said remote location through said installed medical imaging apparatus via said remote access interface and said external device interface.

2. (Previously Presented) A medical system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said installed medical imaging apparatus is a computed tomography apparatus and wherein said external device is a power contrast agent injector.

Claim 3 has been amended as follows:

3. (Currently amended) ~~An apparatus~~ A medical system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said control unit comprises security protection for isolating said external device at least from permanently installed components of said installed medical imaging apparatus that are not involved in the remote servicing of the external device.

4. (Previously Presented) A medical system as claimed in claim 3 wherein said security protection comprises security hardware.

5. (Previously Presented) A medical system as claimed in claim 3 wherein said security protection comprises security software.

6. (Previously Presented) A medical system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said remote access interface is built into said installed medical imaging apparatus as an original component thereof.

7. (Previously Presented) A medical system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said remote access interface is configured for retrofitting into said installed medical imaging apparatus.

Claim 8 has been amended as follows:

8. (Currently amended) A method for remotely servicing an external device used in combination with an installed medical imaging apparatus that comprises a plurality of permanently installed components, said external device being separate from said permanently installed components, comprising the steps of:

providing said installed medical imaging apparatus with remote access equipment allowing remote servicing of said installed medical imaging apparatus;

temporarily connecting said external device to at least one of said permanently installed ~~medical imaging apparatus~~ components; and

temporarily connecting said external device to said remote access equipment in said installed medical imaging apparatus for allowing remote servicing of said external device through said remote access equipment of the installed medical imaging apparatus.

9. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the step of providing said installed medical imaging apparatus with remote access equipment comprises building said remote access equipment into said installed medical imaging apparatus at a time of installation of said installed medical device.

10. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the step of providing said installed medical imaging apparatus with remote access equipment comprises retrofitting said installed medical imaging apparatus with said remote access equipment after installation of said installed medical imaging apparatus.

Claim 11 has been amended as follows:

11. (Currently amended) A method for servicing an external device used in combination with an installed medical imaging apparatus that comprises a plurality of permanently installed components, said external device being separate from said permanently installed components, comprising the steps of:

establishing a communication link between said installed medical imaging apparatus and a service center remote from said installed medical imaging apparatus;

via said communication link, remotely servicing said installed medical imaging apparatus from said service center;

temporarily connecting said external device to at least one of said permanently installed medical-imaging-apparatus components;

routing said communication link through said installed medical imaging apparatus to said external device via said at least one of said permanently installed components; and

remotely servicing said external device from said service center through said installed medical imaging apparatus.

Claim 12 has been amended as follows:

12. (Currently amended) A method for charging for servicing of an external device used in combination with an installed medical imaging apparatus that comprises a plurality of permanently installed components, said external device being separate from said permanently installed components, comprising the steps of:

installing said installed medical imaging apparatus, manufactured by a first manufacturer;

providing said installed medical imaging apparatus with remote access equipment allowing said installed medical imaging apparatus to communicate with a service center located remote from said installed medical imaging apparatus for remote servicing of said installed medical imaging apparatus;

temporarily connecting said external device, manufactured by a second manufacturer, to at least one of said permanently installed ~~medical~~ imaging apparatus components;

temporarily establishing communication, through said remote access equipment of said installed medical imaging apparatus, between said external device and said remote center, via said at least one of said permanently installed components, for remotely servicing said external device through said medical imaging apparatus; and

imposing a monetary charge from said first manufacturer to said second manufacturer dependent on said remote servicing of said external device.

13. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 8 comprising isolating said external device at least from said permanently installed components of said installed medical imaging apparatus that are not involved in the remote servicing of the external device.

14. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 11 comprising isolating said external device at least from said permanently installed components of said installed medical imaging apparatus that are not involved in the remote servicing of the external device.

15. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 12 comprising isolating said external device at least from said permanently installed components of said installed medical imaging apparatus that are not involved in the remote servicing of the external device.